

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons which follow.

The Examiner objects to the disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.163(a) and rejects the claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, as being unsupported by a clear and complete botanical description which distinguishes the cultivar from related known varieties. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks which follow.

A. The specification has been amended at page 2, to insert at line 8, a comparison description of the new *Ficus* cultivar 'Black Diamond' to the closest comparison cultivar.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Date

December 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

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